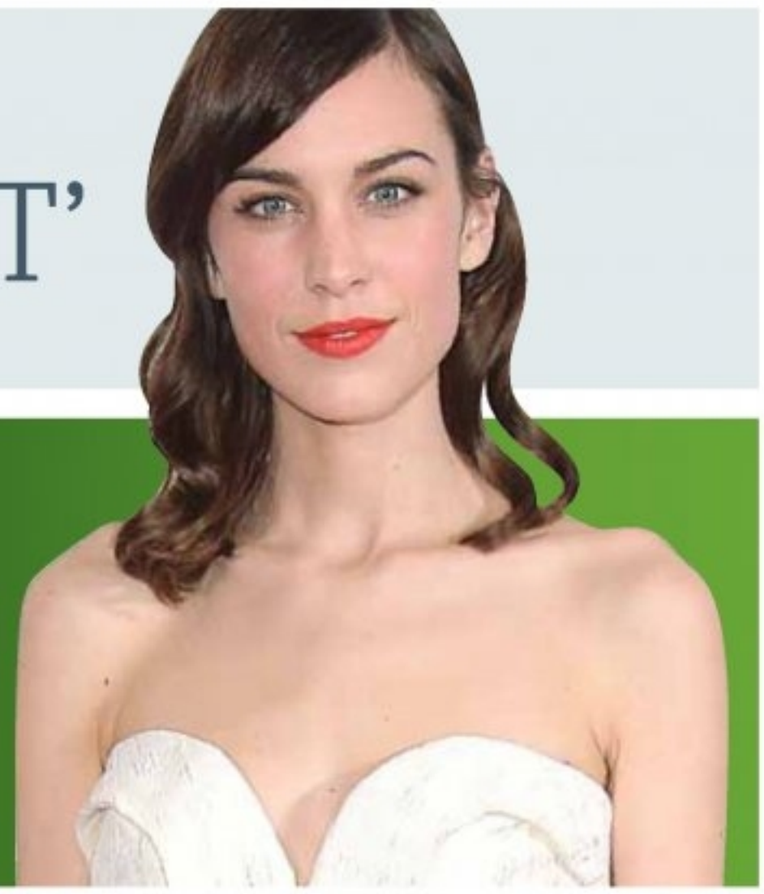
ALEXA CHUNG: 'IT'S ABOUT FEELING CONFIDENT'

THIS STYLE MAVEN HAS SEX APPEAL AND A NEW COSMETICS LINE. PAGE 10



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BOSTON Thursday, January 9, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBoston

New contract for Purple Line

Choo-choo changes. MBTA GM says commuter rail riders can expect trains that are clean, comfortable and on time with MassDOT's approval of a new operating company Wednesday. **Big bucks.** The board unanimously voted to grant an eight-year, $2.6 billion contract to Keolis Commuter Services. PAGE 02

WHERE IS MY BAND?

After not making any new music for 20 years, the band that put Boston rock back on the map in the '90s has suddenly returned, but to a very different world. Pixies singer Black Francis discusses their eventful homecoming and all of the changes they've gone through in the past year on page 12. / CLAYTON CALL, REDFERNS

Hernandez linked to two more murders

PAGE 02

Meryl Streep felt lousy filming this

PAGE 08

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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'What Lena Dunham's Vogue cover might look like'

2 '"Living dolls," men who dress up like giant rubber dolls, will haunt your dreams'

3 'VIDEO: "Jimmy Kimmel" segment brings snowballs to LA beach'

Today's tweet

"And not giving up your seat for pregnant ladies, the elderly, or the injured should be punishable by law. #MBTA"

@taylorrapalyea wants T riders to take some etiquette lessons

MBTA crime

Fare evader tries to coax way into Park Street Station

A Somerville man was arrested by Transit Police after officers allegedly caught him trying to talk passengers into giving him a free ride.

MBTA Transit Police said officers conducting fare evasion surveillance at Park Street Station on Tuesday watched James Wilson, 36, try to coax passengers on the other side of the fare gates to move close enough to the gates for them to open, allowing him to enter. METRO

Mayoral appointment

Evans to be next BPD commissioner

The next head of the Boston Police Department will be a 31-year veteran of the Hub's force who over decades has risen through the ranks.

Mayor Marty Walsh is expected to formally announce today that he will appoint William Evans as police commissioner. It is one of Walsh's first major appointments as mayor.

WILLIAM EVANS
NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

He is the brother of former Commissioner Paul Evans, and has led the department as interim commissioner since November, when former Commissioner Ed Davis left the job after seven years. METRO

New company to operate the MBTA commuter rail

New management. An eight-year, multibillion-dollar contract is granted to Keolis Commuter Services.

MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, right, breaks into laughter during yesterday's MBTA board meeting where members voted on the MBTA commuter rail contract. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

After three hours of public discussion and one instance of fainting, the MassDOT Board of Directors yesterday unanimously voted to hand over the reins of the commuter rail to a new company, Keolis Commuter Services LLC, which was awarded a base contract amount of $2.686 billion to run the operation.

The decision came after 30 people, all with vested interest in the procurement of a contract, delivered remarks arguing for and against the operational change.

Employees of the current rail operator, the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail Company, delivered testimony arguing that the board should take 30 days to reconsider a contract with Keolis.

Quoted

"I want to stress that our goal is performance, not penalties." Scott

Both the MBCR and Keolis were evaluated on 11 factors, including safety, customer service, information technology and civil rights programs.

Keolis racked up an overall score of "good," compared to the MBCR, which ended up with an "acceptable" rating.

According to MBTA General Manager Dr. Beverly Scott, when the contract goes into effect in July, passengers can expect an improvement in commuter rail customer experience, including cleanliness, comfort and on-time performance.

The agency will also take away employees' financial incentives, and instead will penalize employees for not adhering to expectations.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Changes

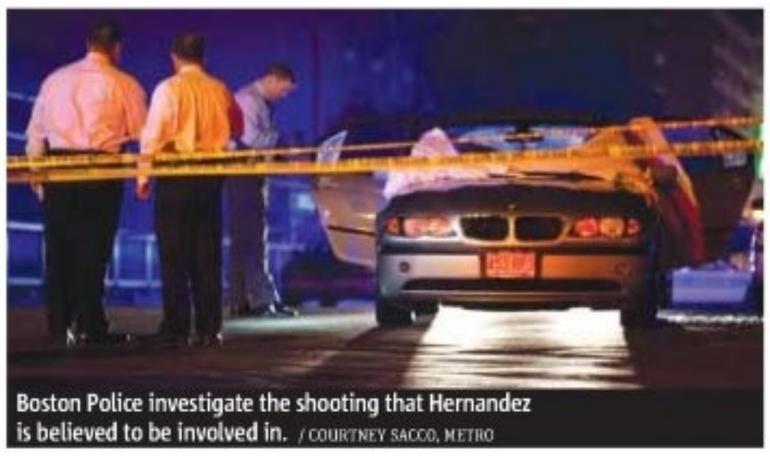
'No excuses'

MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott spoke about the improvements passengers can expect with the new contract.

"The new contract sets a 'no excuses' expectation that the operator will run the trains on time, including more stringent performance criteria," she said.

"[The contract] places additional emphasis on vehicle [and] station cleanliness and passenger comfort. For the first time under the new contract, 50 percent of the amount of financial disincentives that the operator will be tied to [include] elements of customer satisfaction, such as cleanliness, heating and air conditioning, maintaining staffing levels and customer communications."

Hernandez linked to South End murders



Boston Police investigate the shooting that Hernandez is believed to be involved in. / COURTNEY SACCO, METRO

Former New England Patriot and murder suspect Aaron Hernandez was inside an SUV in Boston's South End in 2012 when someone shot and killed two men after a dispute in a nightclub, according to police who filed a search warrant.

Hernandez, 24, is being held in prison as he awaits trial for the July 2013 shooting death of 27-year-old Odin Lloyd, a Dorchester resident and semi-professional football player.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that the warrant, filed in Bristol, Conn., doesn't name the suspected triggerman, nor does it indicate a motive.

Both Danny Abreu, in the driver's seat, and Safiro Furtado, a passenger, were killed.

In October, an unidentified man who claims to have survived the deadly drive-by told Fox 25 that he believes Hernandez was the shooter.

No charges have been filed in the case. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Quoted

"Things happened so fast. I was trying to defend myself. They were shooting everywhere inside the car, front to back. They just came to kill. That's it."

An unnamed witness in an October interview with Fox 25

FBI: 'Brim Beanie Bandit' back to breaking banks

Suspect sought. The FBI is seeking help identifying robber targeting area banks.

A serial bank robber known for his choice of headwear, who has held up five banks in Greater Boston since last month, has struck again.

The man, dubbed by law enforcement as the "Brim Beanie Bandit," robbed a bank in Stoughton on Monday and federal authorities are renewing their call for the public's help to identify him.

The FBI said the man held up the South Shore Savings Bank in Stoughton about 9:30 a.m. Monday. It is the second time he allegedly robbed the bank, which also was held up on Dec. 13, the FBI said.

Surveillance pictures show the man wearing his typical choice of headwear — a black and/or gray brim beanie cap — as well as a black jacket, dark pants and black gloves.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

The "Brim Beanie Bandit" was captured on surveillance cameras during his various robberies. / FBI

Other banks held up

Monday's robbery was the fifth he is suspected in since Dec. 10, the FBI said, and he also attempted to rob a Bank of American in Dorchester. The other robberies took place in Quincy, Needham and Braintree.

- Anyone with information can call 617-742-5533.

DCF probe

Patrick mulls review of child welfare agency

The state agency charged with protecting abused and neglected children has now come under criticism for its operations in two areas of the state and Gov. Deval Patrick on Wednesday suggested there may be an independent review coming for the Department of Children and Families.

The administration is considering hiring an outside entity to look at DCF.

There are growing concerns about problems in the agency, where three workers have been fired in connection with the case of a 5-year-old who is missing and feared dead. SHNS

Violent crime. Cops say man tried to murder his pregnant wife at motel

A West Yarmouth man was charged with attempted murder following an allegedly violent attack on his pregnant wife in front of her infant child.

Matthew Chicoine, 22, was arrested for attempted murder and other charges, Yarmouth police said.

When officers arrived at the motel on Tuesday, they saw that the door to the room had been kicked open and encountered Chicoine who they described as "hostile, enraged [and] uncooperative."

The woman, who is five months pregnant, told officers that she was hit in the face, had her head smashed against a table and the floor and was strangled several times to the point of blacking out twice. She also said that Chicoine allegedly kicked in the door to the bathroom on top of her as she shielded her child.

Matthew Chicoine / YARMOUTH POLICE

She was taken to a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening. MICHAEL NAUGHTON

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Search continues for Brookline teenager

Missing. The son of a Boston Globe columnist was last seen Monday.

Brookline Police are searching for a teenage boy who went missing on Monday.

Caleb Jacoby, 16, disappeared from his Brookline Village home around 12:30 p.m. He had yet to be heard from as of Wednesday evening.

Jacoby is in the 11th grade at Maimonides School in Brookline. The school has spearheaded efforts to find the teen, conducting a community-wide search Wednesday morning.

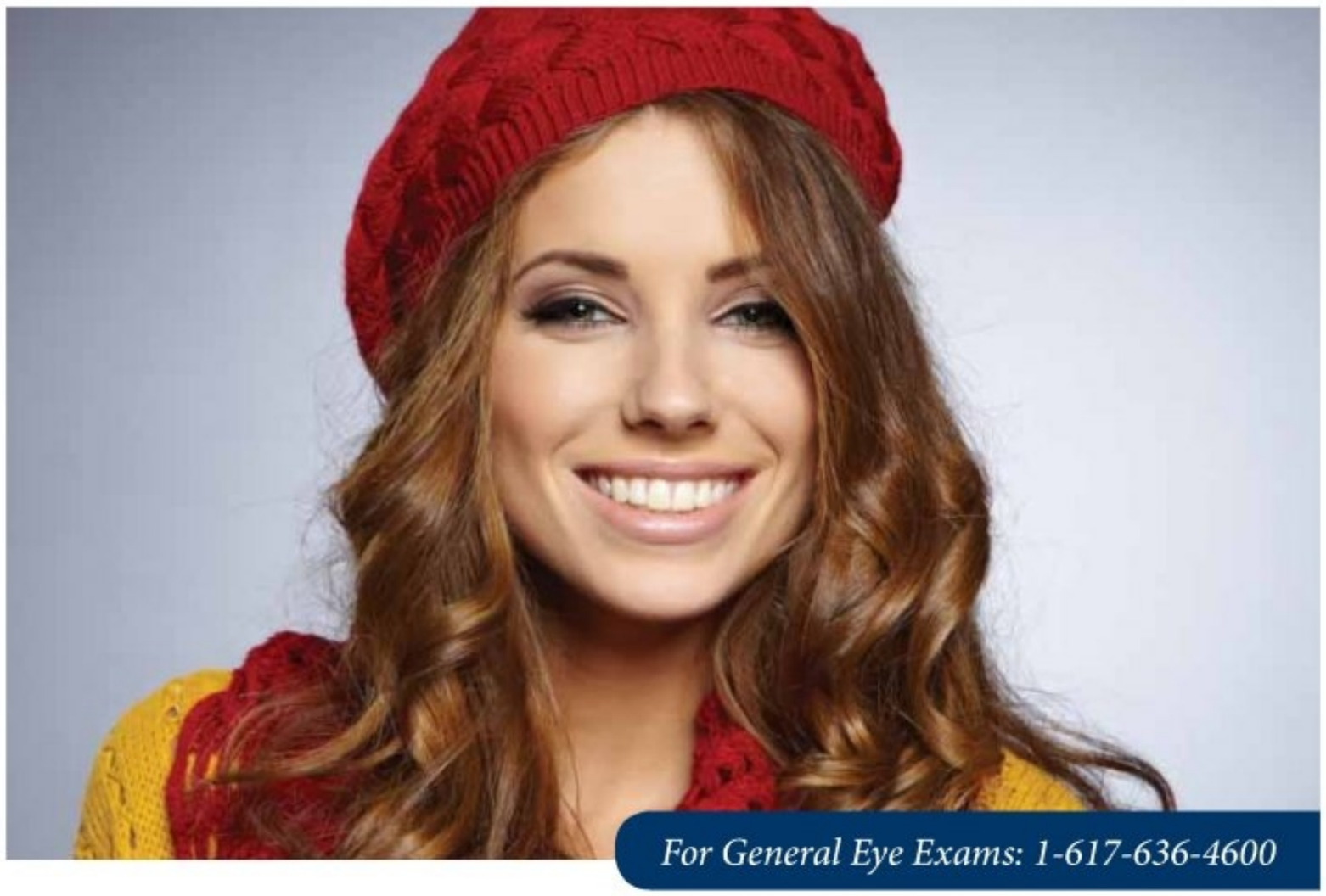
The teen is described as 5 feet 11 inches tall, 140 pounds, with light brown hair and a light complexion. He was last seen wearing a navy polo shirt, navy chinos or jeans, a brown winter jacket with a hood and brown shoes with white socks. He is a frequent visitor to area libraries and Temple Young Israel in Brookline.

Jacoby is the son of popular Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby, who said in a statement on Facebook that the family is very grateful for all the help they've received in the search.

"Thank you to the hundreds of people who have shared our post, put up flyers and lent their support to help locate Caleb," he wrote.

MEGAN JOHNSON
letters@metro.us

Anyone with information can call 617-730-2222. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO



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Representative case

Jury seated in Henriquez trial

A jury of five women and three men was impaneled Wednesday in the trial of Rep. Carlos Henriquez, a Boston Democrat.

Henriquez is charged with three counts of assault and battery, witness intimidation and larceny under $250.

The charges developed from an incident in July 2012, when Henriquez allegedly became angry with a woman he was dating and allegedly hit her and grabbed her by the throat in his car. Henriquez then allegedly drove back into Boston where the woman jumped out of the stopped car near Northeastern University. SHNS

Feeling the heat

National Grid sees record demand for gas

National Grid reports that demand for natural gas hit its second highest level on record in New England during the recent cold snap. Across its service areas, National Grid's 3.4 million natural gas customers on Jan. 3 used nearly 4.43 billion cubic feet, beating the old system record by more than 66 million cubic feet.

Last month, the New England electric grid operator cautioned about risks to system reliability but said resources were expected to be adequate to meet demand in New England this winter. SHNS

Workers have tunnel vision

Dozens of workers continued their effort to repair the more than 50-year-old Callahan Tunnel that links downtown Boston to East Boston and Logan Airport. The tunnel was completely shut down last month for the full rehabilitation of its deck. State officials led media on Wednesday on a tour of the tunnel, which is expected to reopen in March. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Los Angeles is among the areas chosen to be "promise zones." / GETTY IMAGES

Obama targets poorest, creating 'promise zones'

Local. The plan calls for tax incentives for businesses that invest in impoverished neighborhoods.

President Barack Obama was set to speak today about how he will target job creation, housing, law enforcement and education in the poorest U.S. communities, part of his pledge to narrow the gap between rich and poor in America.

Obama signaled last month that this year he plans to focus on income inequality, which he called "the defining challenge of our time," pushing to raise the minimum wage and find new ways to help poor children break out of the cycle of poverty.

As part of this effort, Obama will create "promise zones" in San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and southeastern Kentucky, the White House said on Wednesday.

Former President Lyndon Johnson's pledge to fight a "war on poverty" led to federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps and Head Start preschool education programs. Since 1967, poverty rates have fallen from close to 26 percent to 16 percent. In 2012, 49.7 million of Americans lived in poverty, including 13.4 million children. REUTERS

Laws

US acts to keep minority, disabled students out of jail

The Justice and Education departments unveiled guidelines on Wednesday to prevent schools from violating civil rights laws and keep students out of jail after data found minorities and the disabled were more likely than others to face discipline or arrest.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the guidelines were aimed at giving direction to school law enforcement officers, protecting the civil rights of students and keeping kids in the classroom. The guidelines came after the Justice Department sued Mississippi state and local officials in 2012 over what it called a "school-to-prison pipeline" that violated the rights of children, especially black and disabled youths.

The lawsuit contended that police in Meridian, Mississippi, routinely arrested suspended students even when they lacked probable cause to believe they had committed a crime. REUTERS

Quoted

"A routine school disciplinary infraction should land a student in the principal's office, not in a police precinct." Holder

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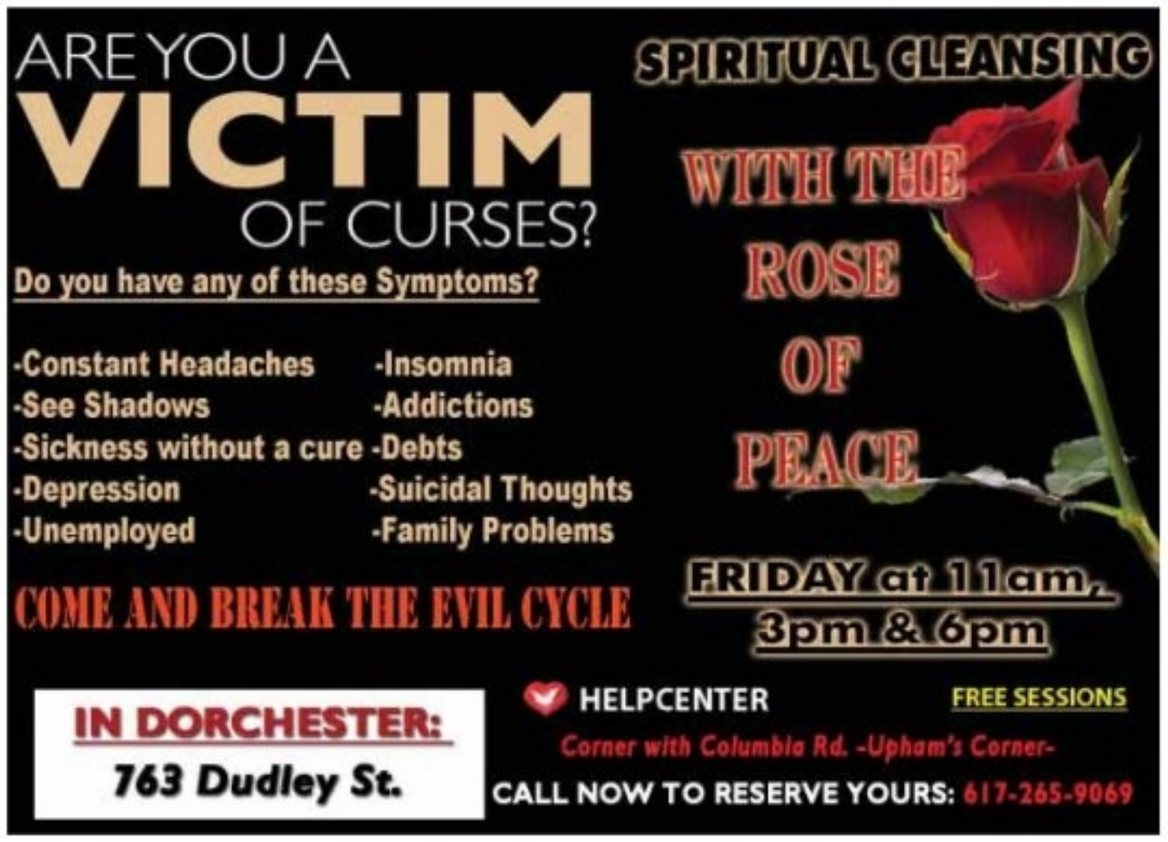

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Roslindale
(near Cummins Highway)

312 Border Street,
East Boston
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All	Jan 27-31

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BOSTON Public Schools Focus on Children

Emails link Christie staffer, lane closings in NJ political mess

Traffic. Christie has insisted that he and his staff had nothing to do with the lane closings.

GOV. CHRISTIE
GETTY IMAGES

Traffic moves over the Hudson River and across the George Washington Bridge between New York City and Fort Lee, N.J. / GETTY IMAGES

Claims that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's administration closed traffic lanes at the George Washington Bridge as payback against a political opponent were boosted on Wednesday with the publication of a series of incriminating emails.

The emails quote a top Christie aide, Bridget Anne Kelly, saying to an executive at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that it was "time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," which is on the New Jersey end of the bridge.

The Port Authority executive, David Wildstein, wrote back in an email: "Got it." The Port Authority oversees the bridge that links New Jersey with New York City.

Copies of the emails were obtained and published by the Bergen Record, The New York Times and other media.

The decision to block off two of three local access ramps to the George Washington Bridge created traffic jams in Fort Lee and angered commuters who were caught in major delays.

Wildstein, a long-time Christie ally, admitted ordering the lane closures and resigned in December. A second top Port Authority appointee resigned a week later. REUTERS

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The time that Aaron Paul did a shot with Michael Jackson

Aaron Paul's Best Party Ever story beats your Best Party Ever story. Sorry.

Yes, while you recount that "epic" kegger, the "Breaking Bad" star can say that he was at a prince of Brunei's 25th birthday party with the King of Pop.

"I was going back up to my room, and this guy grabs me and says, 'Hey, Prince Azim wants to see you in the library,'" Paul tells Details magazine about the soiree, which was reportedly held six years ago outside of London. "So I go down there, and he's sitting on the couch with Michael Jackson, and me and Michael Jackson end up having this hour-long heart-to-heart about family and upbringings, and I remember, he just put his arm around my shoulder and said, 'You know, if you've had a rough childhood or not, it's all about forgiveness. Once you realize that, it's fine. Everything's fine.' And I'm like, 'Michael, you are absolutely right. Do you want to do a shot?' And he goes, 'Sure!'"

While this is a brilliant story, can you imagine if it was a keg stand?

Bieber goes back to Gomez after devastating diagnosis

Just why are Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber back to canoodling? Sources say it's because of Gomez's recent lupus diagnosis.

"Justin reached out to Selena after she canceled the tour," a Bieber insider tells Life & Style, referring to Gomez canceling her 2014 Stars Dance tour last month, reportedly after she got the diagnosis of the autoimmune disease. "He wanted to make sure she was OK and healthy. He cares about her a lot. I don't know if they'll get back together, but he wanted to see her and spend time with her."

So there you have it. Justin Bieber isn't a terrible human being. Glad to hear it.

Talking points

Parker wants big-screen 'Sex'

Sarah Jessica Parker is holding out hope for at least one more big-screen adventure for the "Sex and the City" girls, despite the poor performance of the second installment. "A part of me thinks there is one last chapter to tell," she tells InStyle magazine. "But timing is a peculiar thing. It isn't a decision that can wait forever. I don't want to have to wear muumuus." Last month, co-star Kristin Davis admitted that "there is discussion" about a third film among the powers that be, though Cynthia Nixon was much less optimistic, telling the Hollywood Reporter, "I think it's fine to let it go."

Skarsgard gets nude way down South

Alexander Skarsgard knew exactly how to celebrate reaching the South Pole as part of his Walking with the Wounded Challenge across Antarctica: get naked. Fellow trekker Inge Solheim posted this photo to Instagram of the actor wearing nothing but a pair of snow boots and sunglasses, perched on an outdoor toilet in the middle of the snowy landscape, the temperature reportedly a brisk -22 F. The shot echoes Skarsgard's full-frontal appearance at the end of the "True Blood" sixth season finale, only the TV version didn't feature a toilet.

Alexander Skarsgard knew exactly how to celebrate reaching the South Pole. / INSTAGRAM

2 CULTURE

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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Streep's mean streak

Interview. Playing a nasty mom in "August: Osage County" was not always fun.

"August: Osage County" is an ensemble film, with big-name actors crowded into every inch of the screen. But most of the attention has drifted, inevitably, toward its matriarch, not the least because she's played by Meryl Streep.

As Violet Weston, whose dysfunctional family packs into her remote Oklahoma home in the wake of her husband's suicide, she's a pill-popping monster, short-tempered and prone to speak her mind, which is usually crammed with wicked thoughts she mistakes for tough truths. This may sound more fun than it is.

"As an actor, you're supposed to want to go to the house of pain over and over and over again," Streep explains. "But it's not something that's fun. I resisted doing this initially because of that."

While the entire cast — which includes Julia Roberts, Juliette Lewis and Julianne Nicholson — got along well, she still felt her character's pain. "It wasn't the most joyous experience from my point of view," she says.

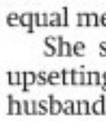
Adding to the tension was shooting while Hurricane Sandy raged in the outside world. "It was important to make a connection beyond the set. Also I was smoking nonstop, which really makes you feel sh—y."

She even felt a bit of jealousy, especially in comparison to Chris Cooper's far more likable brother-in-law. "He would imbue [his character] with his enormous humanity and compassion. And I knew the audience would love him. And I knew they would hate me in equal measure."

She says one of the more upsetting scenes was with her husband, played by Sam Shepard, before he kills himself.

"You still think that maybe there's a spark of love from this person who's gone through everything with you. And to look in his eyes and realize he'd rather be dead than look at you — that was brutal. That sort of set the tone for dealing with his death and everything afterwards."

This said, the play (by Tracy Letts, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize) is still a comedy. "The humor's borne out of pain, but you still want your laughs. Every single actor came to the first reading with a copy of the original play, with their lines highlighted that had been cut." They even begged Letts, who adapted the play himself for the screen, to reinstitute key laugh lines.



MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Quoted

"As an actor you're supposed to want to go to the house of pain over and over and over again. But it's not something that's fun. I resisted doing this initially because of that."

Streep, about playing her character Violet Weston in "August: Osage County."

Meryl Streep says her role in "August: Osage County" was one she put off because of the character's emotional baggage. / WIREIMAGE

You'll get it

Just like home

While the film is more outsized in its grotesquery than most family get-togethers, it's still supposed to be, Streep assures, relatable. "It's like when you come together with your friends after Thanksgiving and you say, 'I have to tell you what my mother said!' And you tell a story that was not funny when you were there, but in the retelling it's fabulous. That's how you transform your life. Because if you can't laugh about this stuff..."

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'The Heart of Robin Hood' beats strong

Review. This is a thrilling take on the classic tale.

"The Heart of Robin Hood" is at the A.R.T. through Jan. 19. Tickets are $25-$50 Visit www.americanrepertorytheater.org for more info. / EVGENIA ELISEEVA

If you look away for even a second during the American Repertory Theater's rollicking production, "The Heart of Robin Hood," you risk missing something incredible. This is about as entertaining and engrossing as live theater gets. An inventive take on the classic story, the play is so much fun that even the most curmudgeonly of theatergoers will have a blast.

This Robin Hood steals from the rich but, rather than give to the poor, he keeps it for himself and his band of not-so-merry men, who are clad not in tights, but in variations of kinkily thuggish leather.

Robin Hood, who plays the part of a brutish crime boss, eventually falls for Marion, as in the old tale. However, in this redux, the romance is complicated by cross-dressing — Marion, the real hero of the play, dons men's clothes to become Robin Hood's nemesis, Martin.

As the battle of good versus evil rages, fighters and lovers alike fly through the air, tumble across the stage and engage in hand-to-hand combat that will not only delight children of all ages, but enable them to enjoy an artfully staged beheading as just another part of the fun. Incredible athleticism, impressive aerials and impeccable fight choreography aren't, however, the only treasures you'll find in this Sherwood Forest.

The back wall of the stage comprises two 40-foot slides covered in green moss that provide for some of the most entertaining entrances you'll ever see. Even dressed in an elegant, silver-beaded frock, the fair maid Marion (Christina Bennett Lind) drops in on her backside like everyone else. There are holes in the floor that people randomly pop in and out of and even a menacing shark that patrols a pond onstage.

Contemporary folk band Poor Old Shine provides the toe-tapping score and some incredible musical moments.

Despite all the mayhem (and there is much of it), "The Heart of Robin Hood" still has a fairly magical ending. But you'll have to go see it for yourself.

NICK DUSSAULT
letters@metro.us

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When it comes to beauty, Alexa Chung is a minimalist

Primp. It's hard to find the "routine" in Alexa Chung's beauty routine. When the cameras are off, the fashion darling leaves her makeup at home and prefers to go natural — even on first dates.

Like you, Alexa Chung is too lazy to wear makeup on the weekends and forgets her razor when she travels. We chatted with the fashion icon about her beauty rituals at the launch of Alexa for Eyeko, her new collaboration with the U.K. cosmetics brand.

What's your daily beauty routine?
It's very minimal. I'm lucky because I'm usually on TV so someone does my makeup for me. But for the weekends, I really don't wear much makeup; I just put moisturizer on. I like Laura Mercier.

How do you protect your skin in the winter?
Oh, man, it's rough. I've been using Cetaphil, it's like a medicinal moisturizer for your body but it is just so plain. I use a vitamin E oil and mix them together to make a richer cream.

Do you bring your makeup with you so you can reapply on the go?
No. I'm no maintenance throughout the day. I would rather look like s— and not worry about it than constantly be reapplying. I'm just too lazy. I would like to look nice all the time, but I just can't be bothered.

What do you listen to when you're putting on your makeup?
I listen to Solange, Lorde and Drake a lot. I also like George Harrison and Beach House.

How do you manage your beauty routine on the road?
I always forget a razor and a toothbrush. It's insane. I just keep everything in one bag. I have the bodywash/shampoo things decantered into smaller things, so that's just ready to go whenever. And then moisturizer — it's very very important for the flight to have it on you. I'd go so far as to say a hydrating mist but I don't ever take it with me. Sometimes I get photographed at the airport, so lately I've been taking a red lipstick so I can feel a little more glamorous.

What are your favorite products for date night?
Oh, God, I hate dates. They are so embarrassing. I tend to do this thing, which is personal to me, it's a weird quirk I have. If I really like someone and go on a date with him, I rebel and I wear dungarees and no makeup. I want to think, if they like me looking like this, then they are going to really like me when I turn it up.

MAJA LUNDAGER
letters@metro.us

Be yourself

On sex appeal

I really, truly believe that it's about feeling confident. I don't think you should ever walk in heels you can't maneuver in or, like, wear seven pairs of Spanx or a padded bra. Because what if you were pinched into this bandage dress and [later your boyfriend] finds out that you like wearing Sonic Youth T-shirts and jeans? They are going to be like, "But when I dated you, you were hot." So I like to be pretty up front about it.

When she does wear makeup, Alexa Chung nails the cateye look thanks to these Eyeko products. / PROVIDED

See more at www.metro.us

PLUS

In stores

THE COLLECTION HITS STORES ON FRIDAY. / PROVIDED

Forever 21 debuts premium leather shoe line

How fun is it to get complimented on your cute skirt or cropped pants, and then totally shock the admirer when you reveal your fashion source isn't some high-end brand but rather a score from Forever 21? Well now, you can fake 'em out with even more affordable finds in the new year, because Forever 21 has just introduced a new shoe collection made from premium leather. The line consists of 10 covetable styles such as distressed leather high-tops and pointed cutout booties, and will range in price from $49.80-$79.80 — making stopping at just one pair impossible. METRO

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KENDALL'S NEW HIGH CONCEPT DIVE

Pitchers of cocktails? Yes, please. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

This isn't your 21-year-old's (or your 61-year-old's) dive bar.
NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

We've been talking about how Kendall Square is the new dining hub of the city for so long now, it's become a cliché. But State Park, the latest opening in the neighborhood, makes it seem like they're running up the score over in Kendall. Who's the city manager, Bill Belichick? With the wealth of options in One Kendall Square alone, you could go out to dinner or drinks every night of the week for months, on a rotating basis, and never end up repeating yourself.

Good neighbors don't always guarantee success, however. State Park has inherited a space — most recently home to Think Tank — where businesses have had trouble staying open in recent years. But, given the already overwhelmingly positive reception, and the fact that the same people behind the much-lauded Hungry Mother around the corner own State Park, that's a streak that will likely be broken. "I don't believe in curses," co-owner Alon Munzer says.

What he does believe in is our collective appetite for high-concept eating and drinking — and for good reason. State Park is a retro-styled, worn-in, high concept dive bar and restaurant that feels like a natural extension of the type of sophisticated casual model that's proved so successful for the likes of Highland Kitchen and Trina's Starlite Lounge. Think of it as a dive bar for patrons who have aged out of, or haven't yet aged back into, dingier, scarier dives. That means pickled eggs, beer nuts, barbecue pickles and tobacco onions on the snack menu (next to Hungry Mother-style, Southern-influenced dishes), and a beer and shots menu that pairs classic cocktails with domestic bottles of beer (a Toronto and a High Life; a Manhattan and a Rolling Rock). They sold 11-and-a-half cases of High Life in one day this past weekend, Munzer says. (That's a lot.)

"We wanted it to have a certain feel, so we sourced out a lot of interesting materials," he says of the beer signs, booths, pinball machine, pool table and other accoutrements that create the space's casual feel. "You can come in and get a higher quality cocktail and beer, and higher quality food, or you could just come in and get a can of Budweiser, play pinball and have a good time." It's the type of bar they imagine you might visit after a day in Hungry Mother State Park in Virginia, where chef Barry Maiden is from. The difference here, Munzer says, is that the bigger space is meant to be an impromptu meeting place for guests. "Hungry Mother is a smaller place, and more often than not you need a reservation, have a longer meal. At State Park we want it to be more affordable, more casual, but with the same quality and same standards."

On the cocktail side, those standards have always been high at Hungry Mother, and the opening menu here follows in that fashion but with a more playful spin. Pitchers of Cape Codder, Tom Collins, Pimm's Cup and Jack-and-Coke cocktails are offered. "We serve smaller glasses with it; it's more interactive that way. You pour it together and share with friends," he says. The State Park special cocktail is a High Life with rye, Braulio Amaro and lemon. Elsewhere the menu is divided between Trust Tree cocktails (each with an ingredient derived from trees), like the Green Walnut, made with rye, Amaro Meletti and Nux Alpina, or the Pine, made with rye, Zirbenz and smoked cinnamon syrup.

Aside from being very good, it's all very on trend. And, despite the overall aesthetic being a little too on the nose — if there were a single funny thing left to say about the dreaded H-word, this would be the time to do it — this could be your new favorite bar. I could definitely see it being mine.

THURSTY LUKE O'NEIL
@lukeoneil47

Quoted

"I don't believe in curses."

co-owner Alon Munzer
on State Park taking up residence in a space formerly occupied by more than one failed business.

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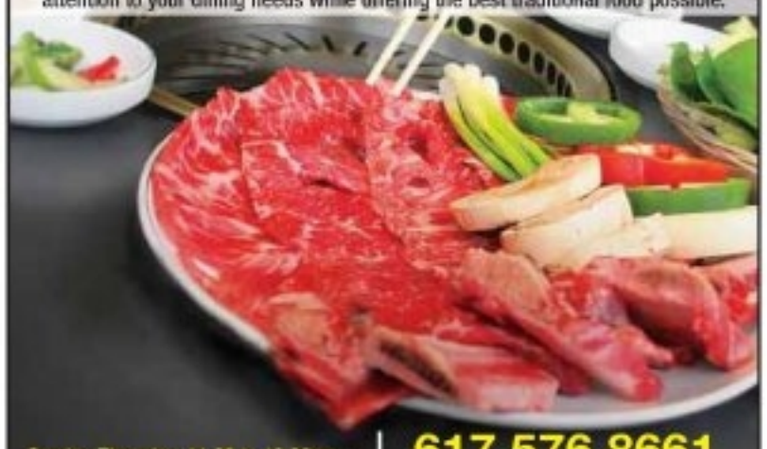
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Kari Jobe

Majestic Tour
With Rend Collective Experiment
March 6
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Jennifer Nettles

That Girl Tour 2014
With Brandy Clark
March 8
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Switchfoot

March 22
Royale
(On sale Monday)

Childish Gambino

The Deep Web Tour
March 30
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Chromeo

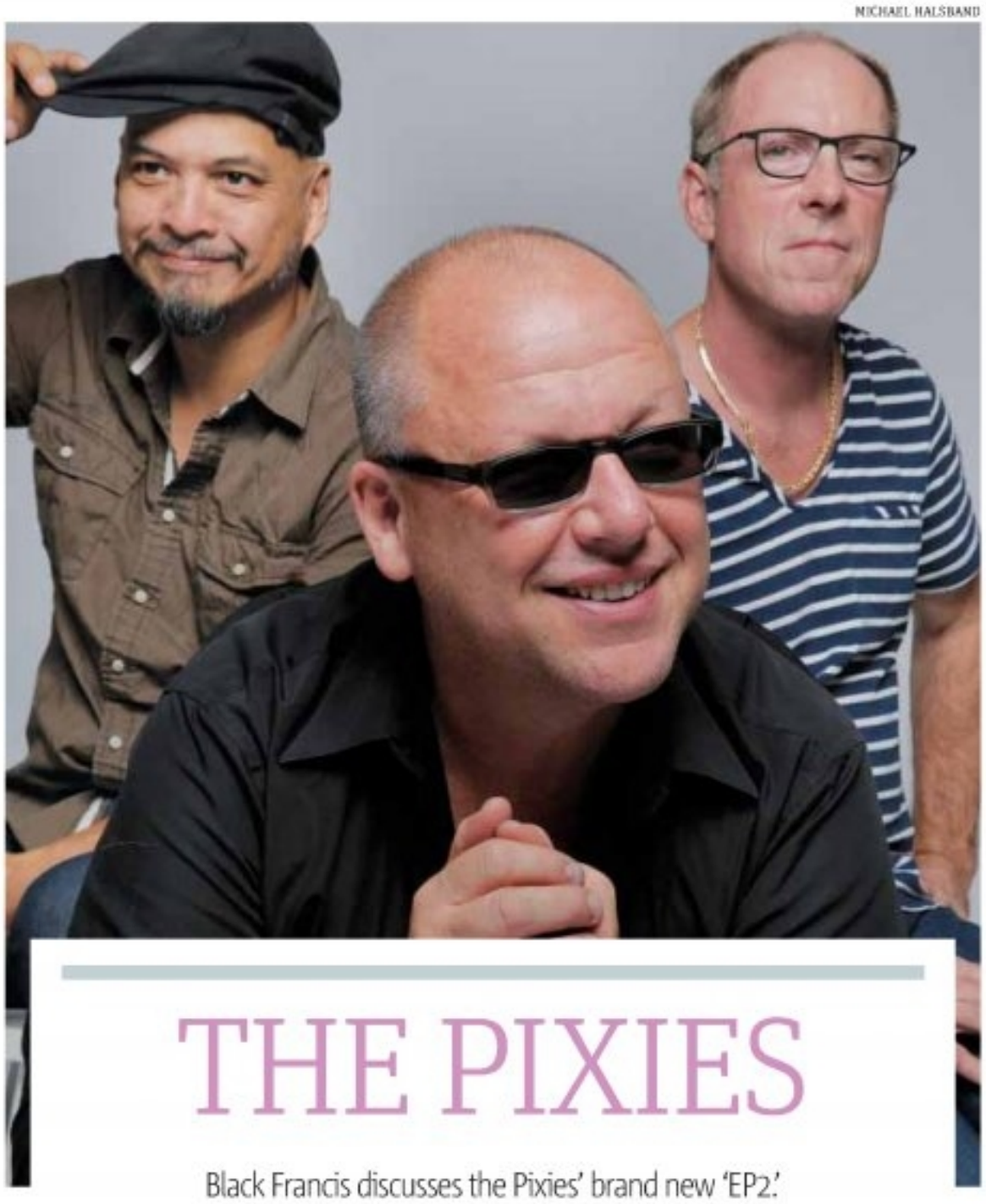
Come Alive Tour
With Oliver
April 30
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Bombay Bicycle Club

May 6
Royale
(On sale Friday)

DONALD GLOVER IS CHILDISH GAMBINO.
ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

MICHAEL HALSBAND



THE PIXIES

Black Francis discusses the Pixies' brand new 'EP2.'

'BOOM! IT'S HERE!'

After not releasing any new music for more than 20 years, the Pixies dropped "EP1" in 2013 with very little fanfare. Last Friday at 3 a.m., the band did it again with "EP2," four rocking new songs from the same sessions that yielded "EP1," produced by Gil Norton.

Singer Black Francis says releasing music like this is the most logical way to do it in the ever-changing digital era, a time that has found the Pixies facing a lot of internal adjustments as well. He says the events of last year have functioned to "change our whole paradigm, basically."

Founding bassist Kim Deal quit the band earlier in 2013, and the remaining members sacked replacement Kim Shattuck this fall. The Pixies singer says he was surprised with how newsworthy the splits with both Kims were.

In conversation, the man who came to prominence for cryptic lyrics that went from whispers to shouts within seconds of each other, can go from jovial to frustrated in just as little time. What sometimes reads as harsh is often tempered by a laugh, yet he seems quite steadfast in his opinions.

What made you decide to release your new music without any hype leading up to it?
I suppose it has to do with the digital distribution of music, more than anything, and the digital distribution of news and publicity statements for that matter. Everything happens quickly and you don't need a record company. You don't even really need a publicist! That doesn't mean that you don't use these kinds of people, but you can do everything from your iPhone, in theory. In the past, a bunch of trucks were going to leave New York or Los Angeles or someplace with a bunch of your records loaded up, and they were going to take it to a distribution warehouse, and then record store buyers were going to go to that warehouse to pick up product and take it back to their stores, because there was so much activity revolving around physical product, and now there's less activity around physical product. ... It just works better if we're like, "Boom! It's here!" Every time we have a news announcement regarding the band, it's like… Well, I remember when Kim Deal left the band this past summer, or the announcement was made regarding that, I believe, according to somebody, it was the second-biggest news story on the Internet in the world!

Really?
Well, for a day! And of course, the next day it's like, "What? Who cares?"

Was the original intention to do a full length album? These two EPs sound like birds of a feather.
Yeah. I mean, it's a season's worth of music. You go into the studio for a couple of months and you make a so-called "record," whatever that is. You make a pile of songs, 15 songs, 20 songs, something like that. Bigger than a breadbox! That was the relationship with Kim Deal. She only wanted to commit to a couple of slices of bread, and we wanted to commit to a whole loaf. We had all of this time booked (in the studio) and we had all of these songs written and demo-ed up and she was like, "I only wanna do these songs." And we were like, "[long sigh]." We've all got lives. We're all f—ing middle aged, and we don't really want to just dick around on three songs and have that be our big thing for the next six months. We're like, "Look, we're here with the producer and we're in the same studio where they recorded 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' for Chrissakes! Let's f—ing make some music! I've got a hall pass from my wife for f—ing seven weeks!" ... We were asking for a big commitment from everybody and she was like, "Actually, you know what? I pass." She wanted a clean break so she was like, "Don't have me on the record," and we were like, "OK. Cool. No problem."

It seems like it was more civil than the first dissolution of the Pixies... I guess what I'm getting at here is the popular legend that the Pixies originally broke up by fax.
You know, the problem with the fax thing is that besides it being a big story or whatever, the fax of the matter is that nobody in the band ever heard about the fax, because the manager, in a passive sort of way, was kind of hoping that things would work themselves out and we just needed a vacation or whatever, and he never forwarded the fax on! ... That's all that really happened. It's just kind of like this thing right now with Kim Shattuck, who was playing bass with us for a few months. ... We decided not to keep working with her. ... From our little corner of the world it's not that big of a deal. We had been the same lineup for 25 f—ing years, we're trying somebody out, and we decided amongst ourselves that now we're going to try somebody else out [Paz Lenchantin was announced as her replacement], and it's pretty basic stuff. I think in good time we would have said whatever it was that people thought we were supposed to say to address this "issue," this f—ing so-called issue of the current bass player leaving or whatever, but she instead decided to — for whatever reason, and you can deduce your own theory about it — she went on her Facebook page and said, "I'm very disappointed I'm not going to be working with the Pixies." End of story, right? So now everybody on the Internet is the expert on everything and it's the problem with being in a rock band: Your fans are very precious about everything.

Quoted

"That was the relationship with Kim Deal. She only wanted to commit to a couple of slices of bread, and we wanted to commit to a whole loaf."

Black Francis on the split with Kim Deal. Visit www.metro.us to read the full interview.

Q&A

Pitchfork stabbing

Let's talk about the big deal that was made out of the Pitchfork review of "EP1," which the website gave a score of 1.0.
I never read the review, but I'd heard about it because somebody said, "Oh, you got 1 out of 10!" Maybe they should go to a 100-star system and then they could have given us 1 out of 100! I don't know. What am I supposed to say? They gave me a bad review. I don't care. If I'm going to read a bad review, chances are, the reviewer's going to say something that's going to hurt my feelings. Usually it's something personal, like, "Hey, that Black Francis guy is overweight!" or something along those lines that will hurt my feelings. But if they want to write a bad review, what can I do about that? Thanks for giving me the publicity. I don't have a big problem with it.

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ART

'Time Pieces'

Through Jan. 11
Gallery at ArtBlock,
725 Harrison Ave., Boston
Free, 617-338-7600
www.gallaeryatartblock.com
This dual exhibition brings together two artists from two very different places — Quebecois sculptor Danielle Suave and Venezuelan painter Jesus Matheus. Suave's uncanny clay creations, made to look like enfolding fabric, are meant to represent human behavior in all its twists and turns. They're counterbalanced by Matheus' minimalist abstract paintings, which allude in almost disquieting silence to all they don't reveal.

James Lentz, Kim Carlino and Helen Payne

View this through Feb. 2. / PROVIDED

Through Feb. 2
Bromfield Gallery,
450 Harrison Ave.,
Boston
Free, 617-451-3605
www.bromfieldgallery.com
Bromfield Gallery presents the winners of its SOLO 2014 competition. Sculptor James Lentz contributes, in his words, "corporeal and overt sculptures of unreality," such as an enormous zipper installed into the gallery wall; painter Kim Carlino gives us beautifully colored, multitextured, ethereal, abstract images that might be ideas forming in the mind. Finally, painter Helen Payne contributes a work on bathroom tiles.

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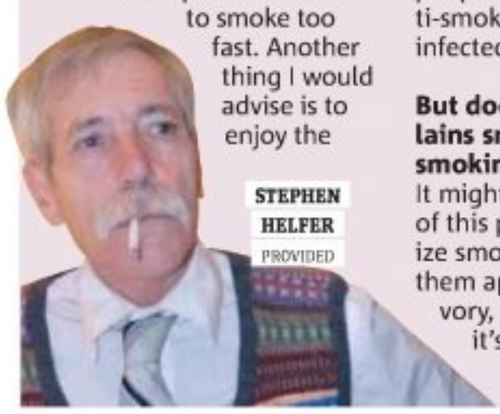
The full title of this radical comedy is "We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915." It's about a crew of idealistic but naive actors trying, and failing, to put together some dead serious, awareness-raising, social justice theater about a little-known genocide. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

Train Spotting: In defense of smoking, a chat with a smokers' rights advocate

The official policy of Metro — and this writer — is that smoking is super bad for you and if quitting was your New Year's resolution, kudos. But if you're a tobacco connoisseur who doesn't give a damn what we say, you might give a damn what outspoken smokers' rights advocate **Stephen Helfer** has to say — especially with the new smoking bans now in effect. The onetime co-leader of Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights prefers roll-your-own cigarettes to conventional butts, and strongly encourages dodging those perpetually brutal tobacco excise taxes whenever possible.

Let's say, hypothetically, I'm a typical smoker with no aspirations to quit. How could I enhance my smoking experiences?
Tobacco is more flavorful when smoked slowly. Sometimes I see people smoke one drag after another, which makes the tobacco heat up too much. So it's important not to smoke too fast. Another thing I would advise is to enjoy the cigarette. Remember that tobacco has been smoked in the New World for 8,000 years. Simply because it's under siege these days and people want you to feel bad, don't let that get you down.


STEPHEN HELFER PROVIDED

You're saying smokers should stop and smell the roses, except the roses are cigarettes.
Well, in a small way, tobacco induces a kind of contemplative thinking and being. Smokers are more apt to be musicians, writers, philosophers and artists, and there is a kind of push in the world, certainly in modern America, where if you're not working, you're supposed to be on a treadmill like a rat at the gym. I'm not pretending that if you smoke a cigarette, you suddenly become a philosopher, but it makes people think a little bit more, and makes them more apt to smell the roses, for example.

Did you watch "The X-Files?"
You know, there have been periods of my life when I didn't watch any television. I don't even know what it's about. Why did you bring it up?

I was wondering what you thought of the villain on that show — The Cigarette Smoking Man.
Well, in popular media, villains are often depicted as smokers. For example, in the "Downton Abbey" household, the only people who smoke are the evil people. This is how the anti-smoking movement has infected popular media.

But doesn't having villains smoke just make smoking look cool?
It might, but I think it's part of this push to de-normalize smokers, and make them appear to be unsavory, evil people. I think it's pernicious, myself.

BARRY THOMPSON

MUSIC

Triple Threat: Three World Premieres

BMOP

Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
Jordan Hall at NEC
$20-$50, students with ID $15
617-585-1260, www.bmop.org
BMOP launches the new year with three works hot off the presses. Featuring the creative voices of composers Elena Ruehr, Ken Ueno and David Rakowski in collaboration with dynamic performers Frances-Marie Uitti, two-bow cello, and Amy Briggs, piano. Gil Rose conducts.

We want you

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Have an upcoming event that you want to let Metro readers know about? Send an email to events@metro.us and we'll get it on our new listings website. *Listings with shaded backgrounds are sponsored listings.*

WINTER FUN

Monster Sled at Fenway Park

Through Jan. 13
Fenway Park,
4 Yawkey Way, Boston
$25, 877-733-7699
www.redsox.com
Oh sure, you could go sledding on some hill in the area for free, but consider the novelty of sledding right in the middle of Fenway Park — not to mention the fact that this freaky winter is taking snow away as quick as it's dumping it down, but this hill is always sled-worthy, and it has stairs to climb back up!

FILM

'Tim's Vermeer'

Sunday, 10 a.m.
Coolidge Corner Theater,
290 Harvard St., Brookline
$10-$20, 617-734-2500
www.coolidge.org
This documentary — directed, randomly enough, by Teller of the comedy magic duo Penn and Teller — follows a Texan inventor on a quest to answer a simple but intriguing question: How did 17th century Dutch master Johannes Vermeer paint so realistically, 150 years before the advent of photography? Simple enough, yes, but it's a question that takes him eight years to answer.

MUSIC

Golijov: La Pasión según San Marcos

Thursday through Saturday
Symphony Hall,
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$30-$104, 888-266-1200
www.bso.org
Robert Spano, director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, guest-conducts the Boston Symphony through a vision of the Passion of Christ by Jewish Argentine composer Osvaldo Golijov, created as part of a tribute on the 250th anniversary of Bach's death. Golijov's work draws on a myriad of Latin American and Christian traditions to bring out the universal power of its narrative.

Lee Ranaldo and the Dust

Friday, 9 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall,
158 Brighton Ave.,
Allston
$14, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com
Lee Ranaldo is the other guitarist in Sonic Youth, and in his side project, the Dust, he's joined by Sonic Youth drummer Steve Shelley. While his songs in Sonic Youth often play up the band's more avant-garde, noisy side, with the Dust he's in fairly straightforward pop/rock mode, often recalling R.E.M., albeit with Ranaldo's signature, fractal-like guitar explorations thrown in.

LIT

Ismael Beah

Tonight, 6 p.m.
Brattle Theatre,
40 Brattle St., Cambridge
$5, 617-661-1515
www.harvard.com
This author, who told the intense story of his experience as a child solider in the Sierra Leone civil war in his 2007 memoir "A Long Way Gone," has returned with a novel, "Radiance of Tomorrow," telling of the war's aftermath. Beah is remarkable not only for his courage in telling such dark, personal stories, but his eloquence in doing so. **MATTHEW DINARO**

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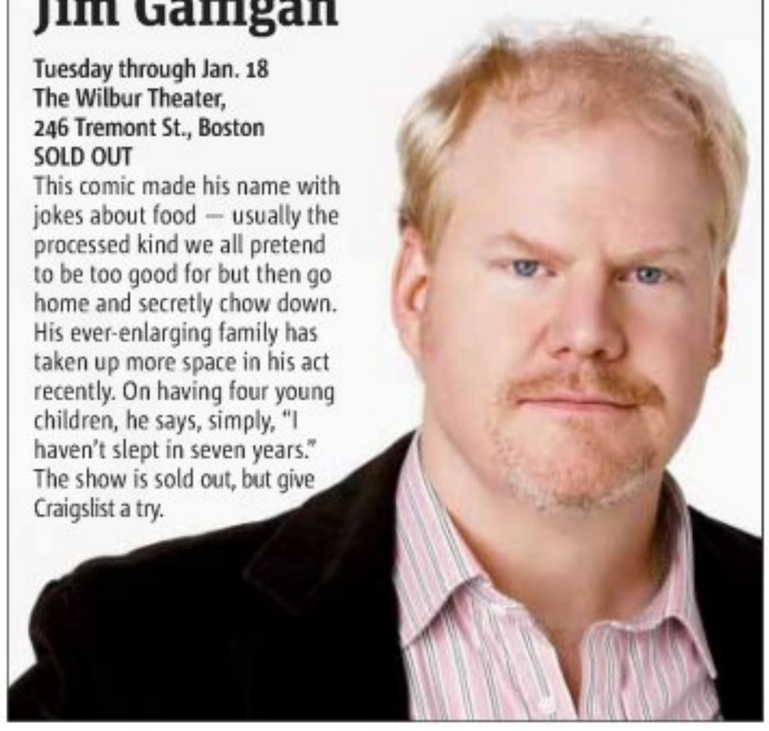
246 Tremont St., Boston
SOLD OUT
This comic made his name with jokes about food — usually the processed kind we all pretend to be too good for but then go home and secretly chow down. His ever-enlarging family has taken up more space in his act recently. On having four young children, he says, simply, "I haven't slept in seven years." The show is sold out, but give Craigslist a try.



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If you go

Commonwealth
11 Broad Canal Way,
Entrees: $29-$35
617-945-7030
www.commonwealthcambridge.com

Dining is but one of the many services Commonwealth has to offer. / DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Opened this November in Kendall Square, Commonwealth is a restaurant, café, bar and market that sells handmade jams and pickles, in-house baked goods, including bread, and the same locally grown produce that's used in the kitchen.

Contrary to that huge catchall, what makes it all work is simplicity. That's something that drives the design, too: no clutter or tchochtkes here. A huge reclaimed metal fire door and metal and wood chairs from a school in Belgium — scribblings and other etchings are clearly visible (one chair boasts a crude drawing, possibly inspired by a biology class) — adds old stories to the modern room, which is marked by slatted palette wood walling that cleverly deflects light.

Echoing the current trends of local, sustainable and seasonal, the menu is equally succinct. There's an array of salad starters and in-house made pasta, including a richly flavored faro fusilli with oxtail and black trumpet mushrooms that is brightened by a touch of basil. The raw bar features wonderful local oysters like fruity, full flavored Rocky Nook from Eastham and an oyster Po' Boy, which makes for a tasty bar snack.

Entrees are build-your-own protein dishes: braised short rib from Pineland Farm, a Vermont quail, local swordfish or monkfish, with a kaleidoscopic array of sides like sweet Purple Haze carrots, earthy "Tokyo" turnips, creamy polenta or crispy risotto cakes.

Dessert includes pastries from the market or homemade ice cream, which you can choose to dress up with toppings or create a float or sandwich. The cinnamon and honey, made with local honey, needs no such embellishment. The ice cream pricing is a little off, though. Charge is per scoop and per topping, meaning a tiny one-scoop sundae runs you $12. That will likely be adjusted, we're told. Still, from the George Howell single estate direct trade coffee, to daily changing meals-to-go, to local farm milk and yogurt, and fresh fruit and vegetables, Commonwealth nails neo-urban eating.

Build your own entree with your choice of meat. / DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Namesake

All for the Nookie

Commonwealth is the first restaurant for chef Steve Nookie Postal (Oleana, Fenway Park and finalist in Bravo's "Around the World in 80 Plates"). Nookie, like "Boardwalk Empire" Nookie? "I was Nookie long before that. It's my professional name like Madonna, or Cher," Postal says.

NOSH ON LINDA LABAN
letters@metro.us

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Kick off 2014 on the slopes

PLUS

Massachusetts

Wachusett Mountain

www.wachusett.com
Summit Elevation: 2,006 ft.
Vertical Drop: 1,000 ft.
Number of Lifts: 8
Number of Trails: 22
Longest Run: 7,050 ft.

This Saturday and Sunday experience the "Fastest Sport on Ice" in a slope-side setting, with help from USA Luge Olympians, international medalists and coaches. Open to adults and children age 10 and older.

Maine

Sugarloaf USA

www.sugarloaf.com
Summit Elevation: 4,237 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,820 ft.
Number of Lifts: 15
Number of Trails: 145
Longest Run: 18,480 ft.
Kittery's legendary seafood shack Bob's Clam Hut has opened a new location at the Base Lodge of Sugarloaf Resort. Bob's — featured on the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" — is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, offering lobster stew, fish chowder, lobster rolls and fried clams for après ski.

New Hampshire

Loon Mountain

www.loonmtn.com
Summit Elevation: 3,050 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,100 ft.
Number of Lifts: 12
Number of Trails: 60
Longest Run: 13,200 ft.

Vermont

Just because the holidays are over, doesn't mean it's too late for a sleigh ride. / JAYPEAKRESORT.COM

Jay Peak

www.JayPeakResort.com. Summit Elevation: 3,968 ft. **Vertical Drop:** 2,153 ft. **Number of Lifts:** 8
Number of Trails: 76 **Longest Run:** 15,840 ft.
Wrap up the holiday season this Saturday and Sunday with a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the snowy forest of Jay Peak. The resort's sleigh is a little different than Santa's — two massive draft horses named "Prince" and "Ike" will take you on a winter adventure through their lower mountain terrain, providing you with scenic views and moments that will last a lifetime.

Check out Loon's King of the East battle this Saturday where 36 of the best riders in New England battle for supremacy in this classic invitational. Groups of snowboarders will compete against each other in Loon Mountain Park until there are only two riders left. The winner will be crowned King of the East, of course.

Smugglers Notch Resort

www.Smuggs.com
Summit Elevation: 3,640 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,610 ft.
Number of Lifts: 8
Number of Trails: 78
Longest Run: 18,480 ft.
Winter Trails Day, an annual celebration of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing (free for those new to both sports) will be held this Saturday. Smugglers' Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Adventure Center will provide free rentals and offer short instructional sessions from noon to 4 p.m. for first-time snowshoers and cross-country skiers.

METRO

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2014 Enduro Xt 800 Skis w/Bindings {reg. $799} $699
2014 Supersweet Skis w/Bindings {reg. $600} $499
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Wheelie Gig Snowboard Bag $129.95
2014 Kyra 75 Women's Ski Boots {reg. $425} $329
2014 EST Mission Snowboard Bindings $219.95
2014 Anthem Boa Snowboard Boots $199.95
2014 Custom Flying V Snowboard $549.99
SUNANDSKI.COM
WOBURN: 406 Washington Street | I-95/128, Former West Marine
PEMBROKE: 296 Old Oak Street | Route 139, In front of Christmas Tree Shops

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20.
Good things come to those with patience, tolerance and understanding. Emotional interaction will allow you to see all sides of a situation.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18.
Someone is likely to play with your emotions. Step back and bide your time until you are fully prepared to deal with the people giving you a hard time.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.
It's a good day to mix and mingle. You'll do well in social settings, and will fare even better when trying to formulate and sign deals. Let your confidence lead the way.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20.
Your erratic feelings can lead to an impulsive decision regarding your future or the status of a partnership. Don't do anything that you may end up regretting. Focus on self-betterment.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21.
Enjoy the people and things you get the most satisfaction from. Keeping the peace will help you stabilize your relationships with important people. Live, love and laugh.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20.
Financial deals should be signed, sealed and delivered. Making plans to network with peers or to celebrate with someone you love will help boost your confidence and ego.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22.
Get involved, be a participant and make your voice heard. Helping others will bring high returns. Socializing with people who share your sentiments will lead to a prosperous venture.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.
Don't let anything get you down. Give an emotional situation a positive spin and, above all, keep moving. Being willing to make a tough choice or change will help you excel.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.
Traveling, taking on a project or meeting new people will lead to new beginnings. Children or elders can help you realize what you need to do.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.
Problems will surface if you can't come to terms with what someone wants. Spending time on your own or with a friend will help you sort through your course of action.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.
A personal change is headed your way. Someone special will influence your life, but before you make a move consider your motives. Re-evaluate your relationships.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.
Spend some time on personal goals. Consider your career options and what's required of you to reach your destination.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

Not the diet for the woman who hates everything

Re: '3-day detox' (Metro, Jan. 8) Joy... sigh. I'm not going to go buy $15 vanilla protein powder to have three half-scoops' worth. That's ridiculous. And what normal person (normal meaning someone who doesn't spend $100 a month on yoga supplies) has chia seeds in their pantry — not to mention, I'm not sure I want to eat the seeds my best friend's daughters spread on clay heads to grow sprouts. I don't like spinach.

I don't like tomatoes, onions, broccoli, beets, cucumbers, mushrooms or cauliflower either.

I hate all beans, not only because they taste foul but also because I don't fancy a musical a—hole at work the next day.

I don't like grapefruit, which many people cannot eat because of the acidic content and because it cannot be mixed with many different medications, etc. Oh, yeah, it's also bitter and nasty.

I HATE FISH. It's disgusting. The smell is even worse than the taste, and the taste... ugh. Let's murder a cold-blooded, scaled animal, rip its scales off and then cook it (or not cook it) and eat it.

What giant moron came up with that idea?

Oh, and of course there's that little thing about sucking down mercury every serving. And the risk of parasitic infection, which is as prominent among fish as salmonella is among chicken.

And broccoli with pepper for dessert... Yeah, that's gonna happen.

This diet, or "detox," is not only some of the worst tasting food... it is a SURE-FIRE WAY to help dieting women FAIL.

JENN MATRONE, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5	4			3		7		9
			1				3	
			4	5		2	8	
		2				5		6
	6						2	
1		3				8		
	1	5		4	3			
	3				2			
4		6		8			9	2

	6	9		3				2
			7		2			8
		4		8	6			
	9		3	6		2		
	3						5	
		2		5	7		3	
			6	1		7		
6			5		9			
5				7		9	1	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Rock climber's aid
6 Witty Bennett —
10 Sigh of relief
14 Moccasin, maybe
15 Water pitcher
16 CCR town
17 Come clean
18 Braxton or Tennille
19 Mr. Luyendyk
20 Debt securer
21 Cheap night spots (2 wds.)
23 Musical gourds
25 Most weird
26 Came out on top
27 Moon rings
29 Wild
32 Solitude enjoyer
33 Coal bunker
36 Wednesday's god
37 Boxing matches
38 Breathe hard
39 Moo caveman
40 "Mary —" (ill-fated ship)
41 Hunt illegally
42 Farsi speaker
43 Want-ad abbr.
44 Job holder
47 Paving material
51 Great Plains antelopes
54 Egyptian god
55 Fountain treat
56 — Bator
57 Slogan
58 Jump over
59 Mideast region
60 Some nannies
61 Long hair
62 Explorer — Hedin
63 Low dice roll

Down
1 Choir selection
2 Gandhi setting
3 More docile
4 Ryukyu Islands native
5 After expenses
6 Stellar whale
7 Furry Jedi ally
8 Descartes' name
9 Tex-Mex beans
10 Kilt fabrics
11 Lena of jazz
12 Does magazine work
13 Actress Dianne—
21 Snowy mo.
22 Bloodhound's clue
24 Army off.
27 Islamic beauty
28 Gambling stake
29 Egg — yung
30 Tokyo, once
31 "Let 'er—!"
32 Cash advance
33 Meadow sound
34 Business abbr.
35 — degree
37 Warm welcomes (2 wds.)
38 Dismiss lightly (hyph.)
40 Remnant
41 Kind of rally
42 Natural
43 Mountain curve
44 — Downs (racetrack)
45 Luncheonette lure
46 "Thinker" sculptor
47 Kofi of the U.N.
48 Rose-petal oil
49 Starbucks order
50 Them there
52 Many a Norse king
53 Demolish
57 Execs

Yesterday's answer

B	R	I	D	A	L		R	O	C		V	A	M	P
I	O	D	I	N	E		A	L	A		O	B	O	E
B	E	A	S	T	S		N	I	P		L	O	O	K
		M	I	S	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	
S	U	M	A	C		D	O	E		O	A	T	E	S
C	H	O	Y		R	U	M		R	I	G			
R	U	T		Y	U	L		P	E	S	E	T	A	S
U	R	E		I	S	T		U	T	E		Y	I	N
B	A	S	S	E	T	S		M	R	S		P	R	O
			P	L	Y		B	I	O		B	O	E	R
A	C	H	E	D		H	O	C		J	E	S	S	E
C	H	E	E	S	E	O	M	E	L	E	T			
M	I	N	D		T	U	B		O	T	T	E	R	S
E	R	N	E		C	S	A		S	T	O	R	E	S
S	P	A	R		H	E	Y		T	Y	R	A	N	T

Interactive Crossword

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SPORTS

Patriots notes

A look at what's happening in Foxboro ahead of Saturday's playoff game vs. Indy.

- Patriots offensive coordinator **Josh McDaniels** withdrew his name from the Cleveland Browns' head coaching search, saying he enjoys working with **Bill Belichick** and **Tom Brady** too much, according to an ESPN source.
- Wide receiver **Aaron Dobson** did not practice Wednesday. Cornerback **Devin McCourty** was limited.

Pats defense looks to take away Hilton

NFL. The Patriots have shut down plenty of marquee wide receivers this season.

It's long been said about Bill Belichick and the Patriots that they like to take away what other teams do best.

In the pass-happy NFL, what most offenses do best these days involves getting the ball to big-time receivers. Not so surprisingly, the Patriots have done a tremendous job at shutting down opposing team's "No. 1" wideouts this season.

The most notable example came in Week 5 against Cincinnati's A.J. Green, as they held the three-time Pro Bowler to just five catches for 61 yards, without a touchdown. The most notable stumble came in Week 14 against the Browns when Josh Gordon ran roughshod over the New England defense to the tune of 151 yards on seven catches.

It's obviously a lot easier to negate a team's strength when you are something close to full-strength health-wise, which is why the statistics involving the Pats shutting down opposing No. 1s look much better earlier in the season than later. Through the first 11 games of the year, the Pats defense allowed just one 100-plus yard game to another team's No. 1 wideout as Julio Jones caught six balls for 108 yards in Week 4. But starting with Houston's Andre Johnson in Week 13, the Pats let three No. 1 receivers burn them for 100-plus yards consecutively. Gordon, in Week 14, and Mike Wallace, in Week 15, also had touchdowns.

Much has been made about Colts quarterback Andrew Luck not having many weapons on offense. But receiver T.Y. Hilton is coming off a career game in which he torched the Chiefs for 224 yards on 13 catches with a pair of touchdowns. Hilton had five 100-plus yard receiving days during the 2013 regular season.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Quoted

"He's pretty dangerous on everything. He's very quick, fast, explosive ... good with the ball in his hands."

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick
On Colts receiver T.Y. Hilton

The Patriots blew out the Colts, 59-24, last season in Foxboro but T.Y. Hilton impressed with a pair of touchdown grabs. / JIM ROGASH, GETTY IMAGES

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MISU

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151-155 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester 02121
Saturday January 25, 2014 9:30am-1:30pm
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:30pm-7pm
Or call 617-892-8714 to request an application be sent by mail/email.

Deadline for completed applications at 82 Green Street:
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For more information or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, call
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In November, the Boston Children's Chorus received the

2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

This is our nation's highest honor for a youth arts organization.

left to right: First Lady Michelle Obama; BCC singer, Amber Rodriguez; BCC Executive Director, David C. Howse

This November, BCC accepted the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (NAHYP) from First Lady Michelle Obama at a White House ceremony.

Given by the President's Committe on Arts and Humanities, BCC is grateful for the recognition and validation of their work to bring social harmony to the city of Boston.

BCC singers were ambassadors of harmony during the trip to D.C., gathering for an impromptu "flash mob" performance for NAHYP attendants and sponsors.

BCC also recently had a chance to meet with Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Kennedy's staff. Warren congratulated the chorus, remarking, "BCC is a real treasure for the city of Boston and the entire Commonwealth."

BCC has prepared me to do anything I want to do

Amber Rodriguez

We attended the concert and were so engaged and floored

BCC First-time Audience Member

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